

10/611,665

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JUL 18 2007

REMARKS

In view of the following discussion, the Applicant submits that none of the claims now pending in the application is anticipated under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §102. Thus, the Applicant believes that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-17, 20-51 AND 54-79 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-17, 20-51, and 54-79 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated the Lockwood patent (U.S. Patent No. 6,554,618, issued April 29, 2003, hereinafter "Lockwood"). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

First, the Applicant respectfully submits that Lockwood fails to disclose or suggest forwarding a query pertaining to a structured entity, as claimed in the Applicant's independent claims 1, 21, 35, 55, 69, 74, and 79. By contrast, Lockwood teaches administering a "gateway test" that determines whether a student has mastered "all of the elementary, foundation skills necessary in [a] particular subject". That is, rather than test understanding of complex, multi-part subjects, as claimed by the Applicant, Lockwood tests understanding of prerequisite topics. For instance, the portions of Lockwood cited by the Examiner disclose that a gateway test may include questions based on a number of more elementary subjects (e.g., a math test might include questions based on addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, etc.). However, a test covering multiple subjects is not analogous to a structured entity having a plurality of parts. Specifically, as described in the Applicant's specification, a structured entity is a query that has a plurality of structurally interrelated parts (e.g., the parts of a multi-step process or a multi-part biological organism, to name some examples, See, e.g., Applicant's published application at least at paragraphs 0106-0109). Although the individual questions posed by Lockwood's gateway test may relate to one another at a high level (i.e., pertain to a common subject, such as math), nowhere in Lockwood is it suggested that the questions are structurally interrelated (e.g., to each other as multiple parts of a larger query).

Moreover, Lockwood fails to disclose or suggest forwarding a plurality of response templates for answering the query, as claimed in Applicant's independent

10/611,665

claims 1, 21, 35, 55, 69, 74, and 79. Specifically, the invention claimed by the Applicant forwards a plurality of response templates to a user, where each of the forwarded templates may potentially be used to answer the same query. This allows the user to select which template(s) to use for each part of his or her response to the query, as well how many templates together will form the response. Thus, the user has a degree of control over the form in which he or she uses the response templates to answer the query. This facilitates self-explanation of the user's response to the query, for instance wherein the user attempts to deliberately explain a complex concept in a step-by-step fashion. By contrast, the word "template" does not even appear in Lockwood's disclosure. The format in which gateway tests are presented to students is unclear from Lockwood, as is the format in which students submit answers. Thus, Lockwood does not disclose that a gateway test administered to a student comprises even one template for response (much less a plurality of templates) or that the user has any control or choice over which template(s) to use in forming a response.

Additionally, Lockwood fails to teach or disclose that a student's answer submitted in response to part of the gateway test links parts of the gateway test. As discussed above, the structured entity according to the Applicant's claimed invention, by definition, comprises a plurality of interrelated parts. A proper response to a query pertaining to the structured entity therefore links the plurality of interrelated parts (e.g., the answers to some parts may depend on or otherwise account for the answers to other parts), as recited in Applicant's independent claims 1, 21, 35, 55, 69, 74, and 79. Nowhere in Lockwood is it suggested that a student response links any of the questions posed in the gateway test, or that there is any correlation among the questions other than that they potentially pertain to a common subject (e.g., all are math problems).

The Applicant's claims clearly recite that a response to a query pertaining to a structured entity comprises a completed response template that is selected by the user (answerer) from among a plurality of forwarded templates for answering the query and that links a plurality of parts of the structured entity. Lockwood, as discussed, fails to disclose or suggest any of these features. Specifically, Applicant's claims 1, 21, 35, 55, 69, 74 and 79 positively recite:

10/611,665

1. A method for providing feedback, said method comprising the steps of:
  - a) forwarding a query pertaining to a structured entity having a plurality of parts;
  - b) forwarding a plurality of response templates for answering the query; and
  - c) receiving a response from a first client device, wherein said response comprises a completed response template linking a plurality of parts of said structured entity. (Emphasis added)
21. A method for providing feedback, said method comprising the steps of:
  - a) receiving a query pertaining to a structured entity having a plurality of parts;
  - b) receiving a plurality of response templates for answering the query; and
  - c) providing a response to an aggregating device from a first client device, wherein said response comprises a completed response template linking a plurality of parts of said structured entity. (Emphasis added)
35. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions, the plurality of instructions including instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps comprising of:
  - a) forwarding a query pertaining to a structured entity having a plurality of parts;
  - b) forwarding a plurality of response templates for answering the query; and
  - c) receiving a response from a first client device, wherein said response comprises a completed response template linking a plurality of parts of said structured entity. (Emphasis added)
55. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions, the plurality of instructions including instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps comprising of:
  - a) receiving a query pertaining to a structured entity having a plurality of parts;
  - b) receiving a plurality of response templates for answering the query; and
  - c) providing a response to an aggregating device from a first client device, wherein said response comprises a completed response template linking a

10/611,665

plurality of parts of said structured entity. (Emphasis added)

69. An apparatus for providing feedback, said apparatus comprising:  
means for forwarding a query pertaining to a structured entity having a  
plurality of parts and for forwarding a plurality of response templates for  
answering the query; and  
means for receiving a response from a first client device, wherein said  
response comprises a completed response template linking a plurality of parts of  
said structured entity. (Emphasis added)

74. An apparatus for providing feedback, said apparatus comprising:  
means for receiving a query pertaining to a structured entity having a  
plurality of parts and for receiving a plurality of response templates for answering  
the query; and  
means for providing a response to an aggregating device from a first client  
device, wherein said response comprises a completed response template linking  
a plurality of parts of said structured entity. (Emphasis added)

79. A system for providing feedback, said system comprising:  
a first client device; and  
an aggregating device for forwarding a query pertaining to a structured  
entity having a plurality of parts and a plurality of response templates for  
answering the query to said first client device, where said aggregating device  
receives a response from said first client device, wherein said response  
comprises a completed response template linking a plurality of parts of said  
structured entity. (Emphasis added)

As discussed, Lockwood fails to disclose or suggest that a response to a query pertaining to a structured entity comprises a completed response template that is selected by the user (answerer) from among a plurality of forwarded templates for answering the query and that links a plurality of parts of the structured entity, as claimed in Applicant's independent claims 1, 21, 35, 55, 69, 74 and 79. Therefore, the Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 21, 35, 55, 69, 74 and 79 fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102 and are patentable thereunder.

Dependent claims 2-17, 20, 22-34, 36-51, 54, 56-68, 70-73 and 75-78 depend from claims 1, 21, 35, 55, 69 and 74 and recite additional features therefore. As such,

10/611,665

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JUL 18 2007

and for at least the same reasons set forth above, the Applicant submits that claims 2-17, 20, 22-34, 36-51, 54, 56-68, 70-73 and 75-78 are not anticipated by the teachings of Lockwood. Therefore, the Applicant submits that dependent claims 2-17, 20, 22-34, 36-51, 54, 56-68, 70-73 and 75-78 also fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102 and are patentable thereunder.

## II. CONCLUSION

Thus, the Applicant submits that all of the presented claims now fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102. Consequently, the Applicant believes that all of these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the issuance of a final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Kin-Wah Tong, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

7/18/07  
Date

  
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